ACCOUNT

Manuscript,

ENTITUL'D,

Destruction the Certain Consequence of Division: Or, The Mecessay of a Struct Union between all, who love the Present Government and Protestant Religion

Written at the Delire of R---W---, Elq; and left with him at his Request, but fince divulg d, contrary to his Promile; with Reflections on the Author of the DEFECTION, &c.

LONDON, Printed, and Sold by J. Rosects, th Warnick-lant: 1718.

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Destruction the Certain Consequence of Division: &c.



Y Design in Publishing this Paper, is not altogether to desend the Defection consider'd, &c. since the Facts mention'd in that Pamphlet are either expressly, or tacitly, own'd by those Scribblers, not excepting

R. W. Esq; who have done it the Honour to rail against it with their usual Billingsgate; but I'm now call'd upon to vindicate myself against an Ungenerous and Treacherous Attack, which breaks in upon all the Rules, that have been esteem'd most facred among Men.

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There can be no Friendship so great, but by Variety of Events, may turn to open Enmity; and sew have been found so vile as to divulge, and betray those Secrets, which were the Essential Secrets, which were the Essent of former mutual Considence; without this Caution, there can be no safe Converse about Matters of any Importance; ev'n between the nearest Friends: Whatever Differences, whatever private Quarrels, or Party-Breaches may happen, these Trusts ought always to be kept inviolable.

I can fay with Pleasure, that I have conform'd myself strictly to these Rules, with Mr. W..., in whose Considence I had once the Honour (as I then esteem'd it) to have some Share; during which Time he often talk'd freely, both of Men and Things, which I never divulg'd; nor shall his present Usage provoke me to say any Thing, but what is necessary for my own Vindication; and to set some Facts right, which he has wholly misrepresented.

I having been often assur'd, that Two Great Persons had steady Resolutions to serve their Country; and that they were determin'd to take off those Burthens, with which the Dissertion to the Protestant Succession, and to regulate the Universities; and do such other Things as were necessary for the Publick Good; but finding no Essentials successed either from Weakness, I began to suspect, it proceeded either from Weakness,

ness, Fear, or selfish Views: Therefore, to spur them on by all the Motives of Duty to their King, Love to their Country, and Regard to their own Credit, I wrote a Paper, which I resolved to print, or not, according as it shou'd affect their suture Conduct.

It was A Dialogue between Two Scholars; One was to personate a Whigg, and the other a Tory; the Whigg being supposed to know what Reasons would most affect the Tory, endeavours to prove it his Interest to change Sides; the other, by Arguments drawn from the wretched Conduct, and weak Management of some then in Power, shewing they took no Step, but what was to the Prejudice of their own Side, pretends to prove, that the Government, if other Measures were not taken, could not long subsist; or what was next to it, must throw itself into Tory Hands for Protection.

This Dialogue (which at first had not near so many Things in it, and yet had been seen by some Great Men,) when it was enlarg'd, I sent to Mr. W-----, with this Compliment, that here He might see what his Enemies said of him, and what his Friends expelled from him. Upon the Receiving it, Mr. W----- not only sent his Gentleman to see for me, who, not finding me, lest a Letter at the Coffee-house, for me to come to his Master; but spoke to a Member of Parliament, as he saw the said when I waited on him, hetaid, I do not know how to treat you, whether as a Friend, or an Enemy. To which I reply'd

ply'd, As a Friend to be sure. Upon this he endeavour'd to satisfy me of his Conduct in several Matters mention'd in that Paper; and affur'd me, he had all the Intentions I cou'd wish, to promote the Interest I espous'd; and that tho' some Things, which we both desir'd, were not yet done, yet that I might depend on it, they shou'd be done in a proper Time; and then he treated me with a great Shew of Kindness, which he repeated as often as he saw me.

And I thought it some Mark of his Friendship, to receive this Letter from him,

Thursday Evening.

Sr

I Shall be glad to see you at my House on Saturday Evening about Seven. I am very sincerely,

Sr

y most Faithful, Humble Servant,

Accordingly I waited on him, where I found with him a Noble Lord, just remov'd out of a great Post, with the Offer of a greater: He then seem'd very averse from Accepting it, yet declar'd, that Nothing shou'd change, or abate his Affection and Zeal for the Government, and the Service of his King; and Mr. W----- saying then,

(as he had at other Times) that he saw into the Bottom of the Designs of his Enemies; and that They were very much mistaken, if they thought they could make him throw up his Place; I was induced to hope, that if one would continue in that Resolution, and the other could be prevailed on, to accept the best Post his Master had to bestow, that the Publick Business might easily go on without any further Alterations; or, without Things breaking out into that Flame they have fince done. This caused me to use all the Arguments I could then think of, to personal the Noble Peer to change his Mind.

What afterwards made me hope, they might be willing to concur in all necessary Measures for Carrying on the Publick Good, was, that Noble Peer's seeming to acquiesce in the King's Pleasure, and Mr. W----'s, ev'n at that Time, assuring me, that if a Bill was brought in for Repealing the Act about Occasional Conformity, he wou'd be for it.

And I made no doubt, but that he, if there was Occasion, wou'd come into proper Measures for Reforming the Universities, since he was inquisitive about Precedents; particularly, he ask'd me, what Methods were taken in the late Times by the Parliament, with Relation to the Universities: Upon which, I (tho' in my Opinion what was done in the Reigns of Edw. 6. and Q. Elizabeth, were more pertinent Precedents,) gave him in Writing, a short Account, how they proceeded in their several Visitations.

(as he had at other Times That this was his real Opinion, I had the less Reason to doubt, since the chief Argument the M---- y us'd for the Paffing the Septennial Act, was, that those Regulations could not well be brought about without it. And I, being fenfible of the great Influence he had, and how much depended on the Part he would ad, endeavour'd to confirm him in their Sentiments, by Argil ments chiefly drawn from the interest of the common Caufe. And he, having reflected with his usual Bitterness on one Noble Lord, and as much commended another, faid, that if I was at Leisure, he wou'd have me put my Thoughts, with Relation to the then Differences amongst the Great Men, in Writing, and shew it him; faying, it would be for bis private Satisfaction; or Words to that Purpofe. Upon which, I drew up an incorrect, unfinish'd Piece, Entitul'd, Destruction, &c. and the first Opportunity I had, I waited on him, expeding it shou'd then have been read over; but he desir'd that I wou'd let him carry it to Chelfear where he shou'd have Leisure to peruse it; and that upon his Coming to Town he would restore it. Upon this, I let him take it with him, but the next Time I saw him, he, after having faid fomething of it, particularly, that the Character giv'n of the Tories was just, fliew'd himself unwilling to part with it; and upon his Promifing it shou'd on no Account be divulg'd, I acquiesc'd in the Assurance he gave me, and left in his Hands that incorred Paper; which, were it for that Reason only, I would never have trusted with any Man, but on whose Hos nour I thought I might have rely'd. After

After a Man has us'd fuch an Artifice, to get a Manuscript into his Hands, which, in its own Nature, supposes a Trust; and has, contrary to his Promise, divulg'd it, either in whole, or part, it can't sure be inconsistent with the strictest Rules of Honour, to let the World see how he came to be entrusted with it.

These Proceedings being truly represented, the Reader will easily discern with what Views I was drawn in, to write the Paper entrusted with Mr. W----, who cou'd not but think, I shou'd express myself very warmly in Relation to a Noble Person, who, according to the Information I receiv'd from him, had already brought one Minister into Disgrace, and was carrying on the same Design against others; and was for getting the Excluding Ast dispensed with in Favour of certain Foreigners.

What shews, that he thought, when he had got this Manuscript into his Hands, he had wherewith to hinder me from Printing the Dialogue, is, that assoon as it was in his Possession, tho a considerable While before he quitted his Posts, all the Corresponder ce I had with him was wholly lost. He dropp'd me with this cold Compliment, That I need not give myself the Trouble to come to him, 'till he sent for me.

Thus have I giv'n the Secret History of a Correspondence, which did not last long, it not beginning 'till some Months after the King went Abroad, and ending as before-mention'd.

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But tho' this Stratagem did not succeed, and he found I was not to be aw'd into Silence, yet he now pretends by virtue of it, to enervate the Force of a late Pamphlet, and to turn the Facts there mention'd on other Persons; by telling the World, 'Tis plain, by a Manuscript in his Custody, that this Pamphlet was written against other Persons; but that upon the Change of the Ministry, their Names were struck out, and his put in; and that he, (good Man) had such a Detestation for Calumny, that he gave the Author a Sum of Money not to publish it.

Now I dare appeal to any Man living, whether any Name need be written, to shew to whom the Picture belongs; or whether at first Sight, ev'ry one will not fee, it cou'd be drawn for none but ----; or whether, 'tis not more likely, he, who, by mif-representing a Noble Peer, drew me in to give a very wrong Character of him, wou'd not rather have giv'n Money to have a Paper printed, that reflected on the Person he mortally hated, than to hinder it; but this is of a Piece with his having fo great a Kindness for the present Ministry, and being fo tender of their Honour, that out of meer Respect, he declines giving an Account of the Reasons, why he cou'd no longer serve. He is, if you believe him, a Man of that Temper and Moderation, and has so much Regard to the Reputation of those, who, he complains, have us'd him ill, that he not only forbears to tell the World, what Things were to be impos'd

on him, which he cou'd not in Honour comply with; but that when he finds a Man fo refolutely bent to publish Reflections on one of them, that he can't otherwise prevent it, he, rather than not do it, will part with a Sum of Money.

I have nothing to alledge in Excuse of the Injustice done to a Noble Person, (whose Pardon I humbly beg,) but that I copy'd too exactly after the Picture he had drawn; and that tho' some of the Expressions might be my own, yet the Matter was wholly his; so that I only trusted him with his own Story, which he had no more Right to divulge, than if I had writ it in a Letter, or told it him in Confidence.

I was not the only credulous Person, many besides myself were at first as much impos'd on, about the Cause of those Misunderstandings; those upon the Spot having a great Advantage of possessing People in their Favour; but they were for the most part undeceiv'd, when Time discover'd the Intriegues, which, in the King's Absence, were carrying on here, the ill Consequences of which are daily more and more visible. Then the Character of a Noble Peer, which had been, for some Time, sully'd by the salse Things the Malice of his Enemies had suggested, shone out the brighter.

The Writer of the Manuscript does not change his Opinion of Men, as they are in, or out of high Posts, but as he thinks they deserve

of their Country, much less was that Paper writ to court one Side, and to libel the other, is very evident from the Character giv'n in it of Lord Sta---e, then Secretary of State, and which, in all Probability, he was never like to have seen, and was there mention'd to shew Mr. W----, that nothing cou'd turn so much to his Prejudice in the Opinion of all honest Men, as being at Variance with a Person, to whose Conduct he cou'd have no just Objection; since all he had to object amounted to no more, than that he thought no private Friendship was to be preferr'd to the Publick Interest: And to shew he was wholly govern'd by That, I, among other Things, said in that Manuscript,

When they, (the Tories,) found the Court of Inquisition they had set up here, cou'd not affect him, (so Prudent as well as Just had his Conduct been,) then, without Regard to what it wou'd cost the Nation, they thought it worth their While to fend proper ' Commissioners into Spain, to enquire into his ' Conduct; which, to their great Mortification, they found turn'd highly to his Honour; fince, as by his Answer to their Report, it appear'd, he had been so good an Husband for the Publick, that he religiously apply'd to its Sacred Service, what others would have thought they might have taken to themselves, and " which Custom mou'd have justify'd; and in one Article, viz. The Profit arising from the Re-' coining the Money in Spain, (for which he fr ly made himself Debtor) he sav'd to the Pu lick a very-great Sum. This

This I shou'd not presume to have now quoted from the Manuscript, but in my own Vindication, to shew that I courted no Party, but spoke my Thoughts freely of Men, as I then thought their Actions deserv'd,

If great Men, when they fall out, wou'd shew their Opposition to each other, in striving who shou'd merit most of their King and Country; and when they chance to be remov'd, wou'd not oppose those Measures themselves approv'd when in Power; but have so much Regard to their own Character, as not to act directly contrary to those Principles, they, 'till then, profess'd, the Publick wou'd be little concern'd in their Quarrels; but when Covetouf-ness, Ambition, and Revenge, hurry them on to facrifice ev'ry Thing, rather than not gratify those darling Passions, 'tis, then, the Right of ev'ry Man, tho' ever so mean, according as he has Opportunity, to encleavour to compose those Breaches, or to make them as harmless as posfible; but if he fails in the Attempt, and Things are carry'd on to the utmost Extremity, he has a Right to expose the guilty, and shew those, who are deluded by them, the fatal Tendency of those Divisions.

As the first was the Design of the Manuscript, so the last was that of the Desection consider'd, &c. and, therefore, 'tis no Wonder, if there be in both several Arguments to the same Purpose, tho' the former is much larger on this Head; and I am apt to believe, that

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had it been consider'd as it ought, it wou'd have prevented all such Desettion, as has since happen'd. And one wou'd think, that Mr. W----had no Reason to value himself for having so many Things said to him, in a Paper entrusted with him, of the same Import with that contain'd in the Desettion consider'd, &c. since it shew'd such a Jealousy of his suture Conduct, as can't sure pass for any great Compliment.

When the Manuscript was written, tho' there were Misunderstandings among the great Ones, yet then they did not appear to have any fuch ill Consequences, as afterwards happen'd; those that did not think themselves disoblig'd, seem'd ready to come into any Measures for the Publick Good; and others did not then appear to have form'd any Faction within, or without Doors; fo that the Publick Affairs might have gone on with Ease, had it not been for the Defection, which happen'd afterwards; and a Man, who pretended to be a Patriot, especially, if he had confider'd the Arguments in the Paper entrufted with him, wou'd never have scrupl'd to join with an Enemy, in carrying on the Service of his King and Country, rather than let the Common Cause suffer by any private Animolity.

That nothing cou'd have hinder'd him from Acting thus, and yet keeping his Potts, is very plain, from his being courted not to lay down; and he himself, as much as his Credit is concern'd in it, dares not mention the Motives which made him quit; which must be little for

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for his Reputation, if we judge of them by his Conduct fince that Time; and consequently, the Manuscript and the Pamphlet, let the Fault at first be where it will, are very consistent; since what is mention'd in them relates to different Facts, and different Times; and, therefore, nothing can be objected to that Pamphlet, if its Reasons are just, and the Facts true! And I suppose, it will be allow'd nothing yet has appear'd, which in the least diminishes the Force of either.

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ittle for Not only the Title of the Manuscript, but ev'ry Page in it shews, with what an honest Design it was written; and that there appears thorow the whole, a steady Attachment, and more than common Zeal in the Writer of it for the Interest of his Country; and if the Person in whose Possession it is, thinks otherwise, he is at Liberty to print it, except those Missakes relating to a Noble Person, which he himself drew me into.

In that Manuscript I was the longer in describing how the Tories acted in the late Reign, because what was said on that Head, was (for the most Part) taken from the Writings of Mr. W.-- himself, in Hopes that by restecting on them, he might be more steady to the true Interest of Great Britain, and guessing by my Knowledge of him, he would be always best pleas'd with what came from himself.

Amongst other Inconveniences that wou'd attend those Divisions, if not compos'd, it was said,

'The Tories strangely insult, and cry, that all the Measures concerted for bringing the Impeach'd Cr----ls to Justice, must fall to the Ground.

This, I thought, might have had its Effect on a Person, who had appear'd so zealous in Promoting the Impeachments.

And after having giv'n an Account of the Principles of the Tories, it was said,

'Shou'd Men of these Principles; which Heavyn avert, get Power into their Hands; they, no doubt, wou'd treat all, who go under the Name of Whiggs, with more Cruelty than ever yet was practis'd by the most barbarous Nations; All, therefore, who have any Love for their GOD, their Religion, their King, and Country, will do their utmost to discourage all Attempts made by whomsover, on what Pretence soever, in Favour of Men of such detestable Principles, and look on any Man as an Enemy to his Country, who, out of a mad, and cursed Ambition, is for creating Divisions among the Friends to the Government.

Amongst other Things there mention'd, 'tis said,

'It's strangely unaccountable, that when the Rebels are overthrown, and the King's Enemies defeated, and there feems nothing more to do, than to make fuch Regulations, as were necessary for the Security of our future Peace, that any shou'd have so little Regard to the Safety of his Majesty, their Country, and Posterity, as to hazard all this by foolish Quarrels among themselves; but there can be little doubt, but that His Ma-' jesty's consummate Wisdom will easily discern whence all this had its Rife, and applyfuch proper Remedies, as will reach to the Root of the Diftemper; and that the Parliament will not only go on to perfue all fuch Measures, as are necessary for the Publick Good; but make those repent it, if there are any so hardy, who shall presume to endeavour to fow Seeds of Division among them. This is what justly may be expected from a Parliament, which has shewn so much ' Zeal for the Interest of their Country, and whose Weight and Authority, (it not being limited to three Years,) must be proportion'd to the Time of its Continuance.

I need not say who they are, that since the Writing that Paper, have been so hardy, as to make Divisions, as well within, as without Doors; and to soment them in a Family, upon whose Agreement, the Security of the Protestant Religion, the Safety of these Nations, and the Liberties of Europe, do in a great Measure depend;

and to unite with their Country's Enemies, in Opposing all Endeavours to render it happy.

If the Tories, as they pretended, conceiv'd fuch an Aversion against the King, for Employing those in the Administration they hated, I thought the mentioning that, wou'd be an invincible Argument to any one of them, against Deserting the Interest of a Prince, who had expos'd himself to the Hatred of so great a Party on their Account.

I concluded, that the best Way to hinder a Man from warping to the adverse Side, was to put him in Mind of what the Tories had done against him, as well as what he had done against them; and therefore, in the Character there giv'n of him, I set that in the best Light I cou'd, and commended him for the Part he afted in the late Reign against them.

I shall say no more on this Head, but in general observe, that a Man must have brought himself to a very unhappy Condition, if no honest Man can reflect on what he has formerly done, without conceiving an Horror for what he is now doing; and that a Panegyrick on his former Actions, is the greatest Satyr that can be on his present; according to Thucydides, He is don by guilty, who is not good as he was, and is evil as he was not.

Postscript.

I AD not Mr. W---- appear'd in Print, some wou'd have thought, he was able to say something in his own Vindication; but now they are convinc'd to the contrary, by his loose and insignificant Answer; and they say, as it must be presum'd, if there be a Lock with many Wards, and but one Key will open it, that Key was made for it; so if his Conduct (the the Facts mention'd in the Defection, being consider'd, and compar'd together,) can't be accounted for, but upon those Views and Motives there suggested; that alone is a sufficient Proof they are there fairly represented.

In his Answer he spends some Pages in giving extravagant Commendations of himself, and a Noble Lord, and of their * Reputation as built upon the Foundation of real, not imanary Services done to the whole Nation, to the Protestant Interest, to the King personally, and to all His Majesty's Royal Family and Friends; exemplify'd by Services not easily to be equall'd, and which, perhaps, none cou'd have perform'd at that time but themselves"; but all this is in general, there's nothing in particular, but what relates to one of them being voted an Enemy to his Country, and the other being sent to the Tower.

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Men

Men may get Esteem among unthinking People of their own Side, for Actions, that are far from having any Merit in them, when they are censur'd by the adverse Party, is very evident in these two Instances.

Shou'd any of the present Ministry have made such a Treaty, as gave up ev'ry thing to the Durch, without regarding how it might have embroil'd us with the Emperor, or without stipulating the least Advantage upon a Peace to Great Britain, tho' the Burden of the War chiefly lay on her; or without sufficiently providing for the Security of our Trade, ev'n in those Towns taken by our Blood and Money; and he had done this by himself, while the other Plenipot ntiary, notwithstanding the Interest the Durch had in him, avoided Signing it; the Libels on the Side of the Deserters, wou'd, no doubt, have arraign'd such a Conduct.

Those, who judg'd rightly of Things, were under terrible Apprehensions, when they saw so great a share of the Management of Publick Affirs fall into the Hands of a Man, who did not shew much Prudence in directing his own private Concerns; and whose greatest Merit consisted in being sent to the Tower for notorious Brehery and Corruption; it not being material, whether the Money was for himself, or his Creature; the Publick in either Case suffering alike: And I'm sorry to find, they had too much Reason for their Fears.

Mr. W ---- * quotes the Author of the Defestion, for faying, 'Who is not furpriz'd to find these Men hazard all by their Unaccountable Divisions; and by joining with the Enemies of their Country, diffress the King's Affairs, and prevent the doing those very Things, they themselves declar'd to be neceffary for the Publick Safety"; from thence he argues, as if that Author had suppos'd, that all this happen'd only by L--d T---ds, and Mr. W----'s Withdrawing from the Publick Affairs; and that Others had not Abilities to Supply their Places; however I wou'd not have him value himself on the Mischief he, and his Party, can do; fince in many Circumstances (to make use of his own Motto) Much Malice mingl'd with but little Wit, may be able to endanger Things of the greatest Moment.

Tho' 'tis notorious, the Paper War was begun by the Deferters, and that the Two Conducts, &c. were the Libels that made the Attack, yet he heavily complains of their being insulted in Publick Libels; and thinks, those may serve for a sufficient Excuse for what they have done since the Defection. His Words are f. To tell us what Measures they take now, and what Instruments they may think fit to use since, is to enter upon a new Argument, in which, whoever dips must account also for the Usage they have received from a scandalous, cla-

[·] p. 25. † p. 29, 30.

clamouring Sett of Men, as well in Pamphlets, Libels, News Papers and Conversation, as elsewhere; which may have obliged them to act in their own Defence, and for the effectual Clearing up their own Reputation.

they themselves formerly spoke of with Abhorrence and Contempt, concerting Measures with,
and assisting them, in Opposition to the Government, and the Personal Interest of the King
their Master, is now, it seems, call'd Atting in
their own Desence, and an effectual Clearing up their
own Keputation; whereas immediately before, he
says, Their of Reputation in their Native Country, is established by a long Series of vigorous
Conduct, and by a steady, and constant Application to the best, and most proper Methods of
suppressing all the open, and secret Enemies of
the Constitution.

Since

Since there is nothing in this Libel, but what is fully answer'd by the Defection surther consider'd, &c. I have nothing more to add, but that if the Writer of a Pamphlet, Entitul'd, A Short History of the Parliament; publish'd in 1713, and univerfally afcrib'd to Mr. W----, took the Liberty in speaking of the then Parliament, to fay, 'They, for the Characters of Loyal and Dutiful, have facrific'd their Country to the Power of France; which can end in nothing, but bringing in the Pretender, Popery, and Slavery;" I can't see how the Author of that Pamphlet can blame another, if he takes the same Freedom with a private Man, when he thinks what he acts, (tho' it be not to obtain the Characters of Loyal and Dutiful,) tends to the same End: Or, in other Words, If his Conduct be fuch, as those, who govern'd that Parliament, wou'd have prescrib'd him, of whom that Writer gives this Character, ' That they feem to understand nothing but the Ma-' naging of Parties, and making the proper ' Use of the Weakness and Corruption of Man-! kind.

FINIS.



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ted there is no bing in this fall, i just what the salwer'd by the sheet the forese wife with bave nothing more to add, but that if Whiter of a Pampilet, Antimie As er of the Payliamere; publish districts, and verfally aftrib'd to Mr. W --- took the way in speaking of the then ledigment dy . They for the Changa wo lower and medify have facific'd their Country to the ower of France; which gan end in nothing, . Or hone of age to established the wing migrated and dere "I can a log kow the Au hor of the amphlet can blance another, if he takes the ters proceed with a private Man, when he highs what he east tho it be not to obtain the Characters of the end Davide, Letterds to tions End : Of in other Words, If his ondered be fired, as those overn'd that allianent, noud have preferred him, of whom on C. Mairer gives this Character, "That they feen to underfland morning the the Mernaging of Pareics office making the prover the of the Weaking and Corruption of their baix

